316 Like Wei-ning

the chief importance of Tung-ch'uan lies in its mines. I had not time to visit any of these, except those at Kung-shan, but there are several productive copper mines in the district.

132 The height of the town I made 7,250 feet. It is a cold place, with a climate more cloudy and rainy than the parts of Yün-nan lying further to the south or west of it.

000 My route from here on to Yün-nan Fu took me along the main road which connects the Yangtze at Sui Fu with the capital of Yün-nan. I was here again out of unexplored country, as Doudart de Lagrée, Baber and others, not to mention many missionaries, had travelled the road before me. I still kept up the survey as no very satisfactory maps had been made of this country.

Turning off from the Tung-ch'uan plain near its western end, our road led us up the Yi-li Ho by a narrow valley

505 with hills rising to 9000 feet on either side. This river is 30 or 40 yards wide and is fordable in many places, but is deep enough to be navigated by boats which bring down timber and firewood to supply Tung-ch'uan.

000 Up this valley we marched for two days and then ascended very steeply on to a ridge and along it, the highest point reached being 9,300 feet. To the north-west a long distance off two very high peaks were visible which I estimated at 14,000 feet. We had now got on to a bare plateau country with considerable stretches of flat ground and small hills rising 300 to 500 feet out of it. We slept on the 5th May in the large temple of the village of Lai-t'ou-p'o at 8,500 feet.

241 The next day we continued our march over the same plateau country. Villages are scarce here, and there is very little cultivation owing to lack of water. At the end of this march of 18 miles the road descends to Hsiao-lung-t'an which is near a small tributary of the Yangtze.

On the 7th after descending to Kung-shan, our road led us up a narrow cultivated valley, ending with a slight ascent

137 to Liu-shu-ho. The country here is more wooded: the hills are covered with firs, and I pitched my tent in a grove of chestnut trees.

● 407 I saw a curious rice husking machine here. It consisted of a wheel in an upright position which wheeled round and

5: Davies G-5 (1894-1900) 1909 AF16 Southwest China AF16

round in a circular furrow, into which the paddy was thrown. 407 ●
It was worked by a water-wheel which revolved horizontally
like a turbine, teeth being arranged all round the outer 376
edge of its top surface to catch the water.

We had heard cuckoos everywhere round us for the last 136
few days. The bird appears to be the same as the English
cuckoo, and in western China as in England it makes its
appearance in April, though I think in the Shan States I
have heard it as early as March.

My mules went straight along the main road to Yang-kai 000
the next day, but I made a slight detour to see Hsün-tien
Chou which lies a little off the road. It is a small, poor
town in a rather well-cultivated plain with the upper waters
of the Niu-lan Chiang running through it. The Tao-t'ai 631
of eastern Yün-nan has his residence here. His district
comprises Chao-t'ung Fu, Tung-ch'uan Fu, and Ch'ü-
ching Fu.

It rained most of the day and we did not reach Yang- 000
kai till seven in the evening, as the march with the circuit to
Hsün-tien must have been 24 miles.

The next day we passed Sung-ming Chou which lies a
mile to the right of the road[1]. The town is a small one,
but it stands in a good plain, measuring about 10 miles
each way. Exceptionally fine opium is grown here and at 249
Yang-kai. The poppy flower of Yün-nan is usually white,
the next most common colour being mauve or purple.
Scarlet poppies are occasionally seen but they are not
common.

After crossing the plain the road leads over a lot of 000
uncultivated undulating ground. As there was some delay
in changing our escort at Sung-ming, I went on without a
guide. Going off to the right of the road to put up my
plane-table, I tried to make a short cut back, and got on to
the wrong path, a mistake which we did not discover till we
met a man a mile or two on. We then struck across to the
left but found so many well-used tracks made by timber-
hauling from the fir woods in front of us, that it was most
difficult to pick out the right road. We could see no village
and could find no one to ask the way of, and as it was

[1] What is considered the main road passes a little further to the east through Yang-lin, but the route I took is rather the more direct of the two.

1 [village of Liu-shu-ho -- Analyst]